

# DILLSBURG BANNER

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Twenty-five cents

## Early morning blaze destroys barn

By Marie Chomicki

Fifteen fire companies from three counties responded to an early morning barn fire last Thursday, September 13 in Dillsburg, just one mile past Northern High School on Route 74.

According to Chief Richard Blough of Franklintown, the barn was "fully engulfed" when he arrived, four minutes after being dispatched, a little before 8:00 a.m.

"It couldn't be stopped," Blough said of the fire. "The outcome was determined before we got there," he added.

As fire chief in command, his first reaction was to protect the house and anything else that was not in flames. Knowing Wellsville firefighters would be approaching from the south, he directed them to hose down the house while his company concentrated on the barn.

The fire was called in by Douglas Cope, owner of the barn, who was milking his cows at the time, according to Blough.

All of the cattle survived, except for three calves, said Blough.

The cause of the fire was undetermined. "Could of been spontaneous combustion," Blough speculates, "because they did find some green hay. The moisture content from green hay, when compressed inside a hay bale, will cause spontaneous combustion."

"No reason to believe it's suspicious," he added. This was the third fire in four days in the local area.

The fire at Cross Keys was determined to be spontaneous combustion and the chicken house in Adams County was electric," Blough informed about the other two fires.

Blough feels there is no connection between the past three fires. He also ruled out arson.

"Arsons usually strikes at night," says Blough. "Eight in the morning is not the right time," he added speaking of the Cope barn fire.

A passing motorist seeing the barn in smoke, stopped to offer her assistance in getting the cattle out of the barn.

The motorist's car was destroyed by the flames and intense heat as it rested in the farmer's driveway next to the barn. A tractor inside the barn and three vehicles were also destroyed according to Blough.

Between 7:45 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. stations Dillsburg 64, Franklintown 65, Wellsville 66, and Monaghan 67 were called first to respond, according to John Walker, a firefighter for Franklintown.

All of those stations are "first due on most structure fires, especially a barn fire," he said.

"Station 65 was in command since it was in his zone," Walker added.

## No More Trash Collection in Alleys

by Mary Lou Bytof

As of November 1, all garbage bags from residential properties in the borough must be placed at the curb line in front of the residence for collection.

The garage collector will enter the alley only to pick up dumpsters and trash from commercial properties.

This is already mandated in certain sections of town, according to Borough Manager J. Chadwick Wagner.

The action is being taken to save money and to improve the safety of those who drive down the borough's alleys.

Don Heffelfinger of Dillsburg 64 and John Walker of Franklintown 65 teamed up to supply water with 65's tanker. They got water from a hydrant located at the Northern High School by the tennis courts, a hydrant in front of the Northern Middle School along Route 74 and from the Dillsburg water tower. More water was pumped from Atland's pond by Wellsville Company 66 to the site of the fire.

By 12:00 noon the pair had transported over 12 loads of water to the fire site.

Bob Heffelfinger (Company 64) had just finished buttoning his shirt for work when he heard the tones go off. He cancelled an appointment in Rossville to respond. He said stations were called from as far away as Spring Grove (Bair Station).

He and John Shambaugh, Chief of 64, both agreed that the blaze was under control around 10:00 a.m. They said 15-20 people responded from their station.

"Everybody is hot and tired," said Laurin Fleming at 12 noon as he rested briefly refueling with noodle soup. The early morning fog had lifted and the sun's rays were hot and penetrating.

"Got to keep them (the firemen) drinking," Laurin explained, "because there is less chance of them passing out and being taken to the hospital."

Called in by Fire Chief Blough was the American Red Cross, York Chapter, which set up in a cow pasture directly across from the still smoldering hay bales.

A crew of three arrived at 10:45 a.m. according to George Flickinger of the York Chapter. The Red Cross is called in to supply food and drink for the fire fighters or to help the families," he informed.

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## Construction of Dillsburg Plaza to begin

by Mary Lou Bytof

Construction of Dillsburg Plaza may begin immediately, according to plan designer Michael D. Lehman, a consulting engineer with Walter N. Heine Associates, Inc. of Boiling Springs.

On Tuesday evening, the Dillsburg Borough Council approved both the final land development plan and a commercial building permit for the strip mall.

The one-story, 11,000 square foot structure will be located on the vacant lot between North Baltimore Street and Route 15, and between CCNB Bank and the Logan Estates. Access to the mall will be off North Baltimore Street and off Route 15.

The Forbes and Sons, Inc. of Thomastown (Near East Berlin) will construct the mall.

The council also approved a commercial building permit for Lefever Bros., Inc. on Route 15. Owners Garth Lefever says he plans to remodel the front of the Chevrolet dealership. Plans include enlarging the showroom, expanding the office space, and adding a customer waiting area. Lefever says he would like to break ground this fall.

In other business, the council authorized the Principal Mutual Life Insurance Company to prepare separate actuarial reports to determine the cost of each of the following by changing the police pension fund

Continued on page 3. See Plaza



Firefighters responded quickly to the Cope farm on Route 74 at Cook's Corner last Thursday, but the fire "photo by Marie Chomicki had too much of a head start. Destroyed was the barn, a tractor and 4 vehicles.

## Military Support Group

by Mary Lou Bytof

A Dillsburg woman is starting a support group for those who have loved ones serving in the military in Saudi Arabia.

Cheryl Gordon of 42 Dogwood Lane, whose 21-year-old son departed for Saudi Arabia on September 1, is asking for parents, relatives and friends of military personnel serving in the Middle East to contact her at 432-8593.

Sgt. Matthew Gordon is an intelligence analyst in the 1-1st Airborne Division of the U.S. Army. Before his departure, Matthew sent his parents an American and an Airborne flag. He instructed them to fly the flags until he returns home, when he personally can remove them.

The Gordons are honoring their son's wishes. In addition to the flags, the supportive family has erected a plywood sign with the screaming eagle insignia of the 101st Airborne which reads, "We Love You, Matt!" Yellow ribbons also adorn their lawn.

According to Mrs. Gordon, a neighbor also began to fly the American flag to show his support.

Several days ago, Mrs. Gordon attended the Dillsburg Borough Council meeting to ask the town government to assist her in honoring the local men and women who are stationed in Saudi Arabia. The council rejected her suggestion to tie commemorative yellow ribbons at various sites throughout the borough. However, Councilman Darwin Moyer assured her that there is no ordinance to prevent her and her group from organizing the business community to sponsor such action as tying ribbons or displaying flags.

Councilman John Shambaugh suggested the council send letters of support to those servicemen.

Mrs. Gordon says she is pleased with Councilman Shambaugh's suggestion. She also says she plans to contact local churches and businesses for additional assistance.

While on the road from Fort Campbell, Ky, Matthew Gordon especially was touched by the warm reception his division received, his mother says. Crowds of people from small towns like ours can count to greet them.

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## Monaghan Township Highlights Voice of Democracy Day

by Deborah Recker

The September meeting of the Monaghan Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Jacob J. Cottenham. Also present were Vice-Chairman R. Wayne Miller, Supervisor Lloyd R. Persun, Treasurer J. Frederick Reddick, Solicitor Niles Benn, Secretary/Manager Gregory T. Spear, and several township residents.

Accepting the advice of Solicitor Benn, the Board moved not to participate in the use of the Monaghan Fire Company's underground storage tank. At the August Board meeting, Sylvester Fleischer asked the Board to consider joint use of the tank explaining that the tank needed to be registered and eventually would have to be replaced to conform with state and federal requirements. Municipalities purchasing gasoline are exempt from the registration requirements.

The Monaghan Volunteer Fire Company responded to six (6) alarms in August, one (1) each in Carroll, Upper Allen, Monroe and Washington townships, one (1) in Dillsburg and one (1) in Wellsville. Total manhours reported for the month were thirty (30).

In planning and development business, Planning Commission Chairman Larry Rhone presented the two (2) lot Wenger Subdivision plan to the Board, recommending approval. The Subdivision is located along E. Ridge Road. The Board accepted the Planning Commission recommendation and approved the plan.

In support of a State request, the Board voted to adopt Resolution No. 5-1990 which favors fair and reasonable impact fees and recommends certain provisions be made part of any legislation providing for impact fees. The State is currently opposing House Bill 1361 as written which grants legislative authority to townships to impose impact fees, on the basis that there is no room for negotiation with developers and does not exempt small land developers and subdivisions which may have no impact on townships.

Developers will be required to pay the impact fees to cover expanded usage costs of such things as roads, water, sewer, public utilities, Fire Company and Police services.

Under legal business, the Board tabled the decision regarding any increase in funds to

the Upper Allen Ambulance Association until the next meeting. It was felt that more information concerning ambulance traffic was needed before any decision could be made. It was also noted that the 1990 budget has already been adopted and the matter may have to be deferred until 1991. Nick Meacher, Director of Operations for the Upper Allen Ambulance Association, approached the Board at the August meeting and requested additional funds in support of the ambulance service.

The Board motioned unanimously not to subordinate the Township's lien against Mr. Roger Petrone to a second mortgage. In other business, it was announced that Mervin Smith is being hired as a part-time employee on the Road Crew at a rate of \$7.00 an hour. Specific terms of employment are to be worked out by the next meeting for Mr. Smith and Ken McGuire, Road Foreman, who will continue as Road Foreman with reduced hours.

Secretary/Manager Spear read the police report for August. Carroll Township Police answered sixty-five (65) complaints in Monaghan Township during the month. Three criminal investigations were conducted with a loss totaling \$1,690.00. \$500.00 was reported recovered to date. Total manhours charged were seventy-seven (77).

Bills and payroll for the month of August were approved in the amount of \$55,680.59.

The next meeting of the Monaghan Township Board of Supervisors will be held October 1, 1990.

## Voice of Democracy Day proclaimed

Mayor Robert F. Bostic has proclaimed November 12th as Voice of Democracy Day in Dillsburg.

The Mayor recently signed a proclamation commending the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary for their sponsorship of the 44th annual Voice of Democracy Program.

The program at Northern High School is open to all 10th, 11th and 12th grade students and will conclude on November 15th.

The winner will move forward and compete in District 21 of the VFW. Winning that second level of competition will send him or her to the State finals. South Mountain Post 6771 of the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary will award prizes totalling one thousand-eight hundred dollars. First place being a thousand dollar savings bond, second place a five-hundred dollar bond, third place is a two hundred dollar bond and finally, fourth place winner takes home a one hundred dollar bond prize.

The total package of prizes in this international scholarship program is expected to exceed \$1,400,000.00.

Student brochures are available at the school. Veterans of Foreign Wars contacts are Dan Roberts, Chairman (432-3650) and Miss Gert Kames, President, Ladies Auxiliary (432-2101).

## Attention

Anyone who took the old deeds from Mabel Wolf's kitchen table in Franklintown, please return them to E.U.B. Church in Franklintown.

## NHS Band & Band Alumni invited to join homecoming activities on October 5

All Northern High School Band Alumni are invited to join the high school band on the evening of Friday, October 5 to enjoy the planned activities which will include a reception at 5:30 in the cafeteria; a brief "rehearsal" at 6:00, the homecoming festivities and football game at 7:00; and a "painless" performance after the game with the high school band. All alumni should of received a notice through the mail from Richard Flyer. If you did not please call him at 432-2830.